

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 6 October 2005. It was the 206th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM William Jolly
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM James W. Harris
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc. Sec.
LTC James R. Mellish	SGM Sam MacMaster
LTC Clarence R. Collins	1SG Jackie Ray
	MSG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch	SGM William Baker
COL James E. Hyer	Ms. Erika Johnson (Widow)

GUESTS

Mr. Lawrence O. Welcome

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL William S. Larese, Garrison CDR
COL Susan Denny, CDR USAAMC
Mr. Kevin Carver, AG
Ms. Lynn Rogers, Commissary
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR
Mr. Stefan Marks, AAEFS
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1135.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business – None

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Affairs - SGM MacMaster informed the Council of the schedule of events for the month of October at Ft Rucker. Members living in Enterprise were invited to the Enterprise Retiree Appreciation Picnic on 20 October.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Block reported HR 2290 proposes that many entitlements enjoyed by military retirees would be capped, i.e. COLA, etc.

c. Health Care – See COL Denny’s report.

d. Volunteers Program – None.

e. Consolidated Club System - COL Block reported the Club’s losses are less than last year and with no longer paying the utility bills, the Club should break even. Mr. Laster reported the bar at the High Rise has been reopened and the Sunday and Thursday night football games are adding to its business. Karaoke starts October 7th in the Dawn Patrol Lounge for a twelve week run with cash prizes being offered for the winners; competition is open to active duty military, retirees, family members and civilians and requires a one time \$10 registration fee. Karaoke finals will be held in February with a \$2,500 first prize. The Club will hold a “Prime Rib Night” 29 October.

f. Commissary - Ms. Rogers reported the “Tide” detergent NASCAR cars will be on display this weekend at the commissary. They are sponsored by Proctor and Gamble. Cereals are on sale now with good savings. Hunts foods, primarily oils and tomato products, will be on sale starting 13 October. Holiday sales are beginning early due to the delay in getting European-made items through customs. The commissaries at Keesler, Gulfport and New Orleans are open in temporary facilities.

g. PX – Mr. Marks reported the Christmas sales calendars will be available the first week in November. The aisles are being shortened in the main store and will reduce the distance customers have to walk from one aisle to the next. Large screen TVs, up to 62 inch screens, are available to order, along with rear projection TVs. There is a lot of additional shopping available on the internet at www.aafes.com. Large mark-downs will be made 29 October in conjunction with the RAD. Drive-offs at the filling stations have necessitated pre-paying for gas, if paying with cash or check.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Laster reported the Pro-Am was a success, largely because it was a one day event and more pros were able to participate. The rain has helped the courses turn greener. The golf course management is looking for sponsors for “Tee Boxes” to improve the appearance of the course. A two person tournament is scheduled for October 15th and the last Pay Day Scramble is Friday, 28 October.

i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported the year’s last Open Horse Show is

scheduled for 8 October starting at 1000. Horse trials are scheduled for 15-16 October but expect entries to be down due to high gas prices and the storm effects along the Gulf Coast.

j. Outdoor Recreation – CSM Frye reported horse trails, hunting regulations, and safety were discussed at the meeting. COL Larese stated the game warden's office was now temporarily located in the picnic area of West Beach while their office was being replaced.

k. Bowling Alley – COL Denny stated the bowling alley was in good shape and the prices were very reasonable.

l. RAD - LTC Mellish reported the 2005 RAD preparations were on track and asked the members working the Health Fair to please wear coat and tie. He asked the members to start planning for guest speakers for the 2006 RAD.

6. Advisors Comments –

a. COL Denny reported that flu vaccines were available for the RAD and senior citizens would be given priority. Classes during the RAD will be shorter and more subjects will be covered. A dietician is now on staff along with three new flight surgeons and a new family practitioner. Another doctor is soon to arrive from Europe. The Clinic is hiring another pediatrician due to the large number of young families on post. An orthopedic assistant is in the planning stage.

b. COL Larese informed the Council that this would be Mr. Marks' last meeting. He is being promoted and reassigned to Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. His replacement is Ms. Snodgrass, inbound from Kosovo for her first managerial assignment here in the states.

c. Mr. Moore stated that the bulletins had been mailed. For those who did not receive one, he has copies of the RAD registration form and was also mailing them out to anyone who requested one from his office.

7. New Business – None


8. Co-Chairman's Comments – COL Bunting invited all to the bi-plane "Fly In" at Blackwell Field in Ozark on Saturday, 8 October beginning at 0900. Two of the team members from last year had a catastrophic mid-air in Wisconsin but the show is continuing and well worth watching; admission is free.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1250. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 3 November 2005 at 1130.

Approved via email 7 OCT 05
BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 7 OCT 05
CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 7 OCT 05
LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary


WILLIAM S. LARESE
COL, Aviation
Garrison Commander

17 OCT 2005